The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An inhibitor of a Group I intron self-splicing reaction comprising an oligonucleotide having a polynucleotide sequence that binds to a 5' internal guide sequence of a precursor RNA containing a Group I intron, or to a portion thereof, wherein said oligonucleotide is capable of binding with the 5' internal guide sequence of the precursor RNA and of being *trans*-spliced to the 3' exon of the precursor RNA.

2. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide comprise deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

3. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' →P5' phosphoramidate or N3' →P5' thiophosphoramidate linkage.

4. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:1], [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3], and [SEQ ID No:9].

5. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No:1 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Pneumocystis carinii*.

6. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3], and [SEQ ID No:9] and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Candida albicans*.

7. A composition comprising a suicide inhibitor of Claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. A method of inhibiting self-splicing of a Group I intron comprising contacting a precursor RNA containing a Group I intron with an oligonucleotide, wherein said oligonucleotide *trans*-splices to a 3' exon sequence of said precursor RNA.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' →P5' phosphoramidate or N3' →P5' thiophosphoramidate linkage.

11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:1], [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3] and [SEQ ID No:9].

12. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises the polynucleotide of SEQ ID No:1 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Pneumocystis carinii*.

13. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3], and [SEQ ID No:9] and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Candida albicans*.

14. A method for inhibiting the growth of an organism transcribing a precursor RNA containing a Group I intron comprising contacting said organism with an amount of an oligonucleotide effective for growth inhibition, wherein said oligonucleotide is capable of being *trans*-spliced to a 3' exon sequence of said precursor RNA.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

16. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' →P5' phosphoramidate or thiophosphoramidate linkage.

17. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:1], [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3] and [SEQ ID No:9].

18. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises the polynucleotide of SEQ ID No:1 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Pneumocystis carinii*.

19. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3], and [SEQ ID No:9] and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Candida albicans*.

20. A method of designing an inhibitor of Group I intron splicing comprising choosing a nucleotide sequence that binds to a 5' internal guide sequence present in precursor RNA containing a Group I intron, or to a portion thereof, and preparing an oligonucleotide having the chosen sequence, wherein said oligonucleotide is capable of binding with the 5' internal guide sequence of the precursor RNA and of being *trans*-spliced to the 3' exon of the precursor RNA.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

22. The method of Claim 20 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' →P5' phosphoramidate or thiophosphoramidate linkage.